

## LITTLE RIVER BASIC MACROSITE AND LITTLE RIVER BASIN

### INTRODUCTION

| Site Code                     | Site Name  | Site Significance |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| LITTLE RIVER BASIC MACROSITE: |  |                   |
| LB1                           | Rocky Creek Rock Outcrop .....                     | Regional          |
| LB2                           | Pleasant Grove Bog and Pine Savanna .....          | National          |
| LB3                           | Rocky Creek/Little River Confluence .....          | County            |
| LB4                           | Little River Buffer and Cliffs - Section One ..... | Regional          |
| LB5                           | Little River Buffer and Cliffs - Section Two ..... | Regional          |
| LB6                           | Thickety Creek Uplands .....                       | County            |
| LB7                           | Shooting Star Site .....                           | Regional          |
| LITTLE RIVER BASIN:           |  |                   |
| L1                            | Town Creek Indian Mound .....                      | County            |
| L2                            | Polly Branch Slopes .....                          | Regional          |
| L3                            | Harrisville Basic Forest .....                     | County            |
| L4                            | Fanning Rock .....                                 | County            |
| L5                            | Cedar Creek Slopes .....                           | County            |

The headwaters of the Little River seeps from a spring located on the Asheboro Municipal Golf Course in Randolph County (Whatley 1985). The Little River gains volume from the South Prong of the Little River and the West Fork of the Little River, then flows south to Montgomery County. It flows through central Montgomery County, east of Troy, then into Richmond County where it reaches its confluence with the Pee Dee River. The West Fork of the Little River is a major tributary of the Little River that drains the eastern landscape of the Uwharrie Mountains in Randolph County. This tributary originates in southern Randolph County and reaches its confluence with the Little River in northern Montgomery County. In the Randolph County Natural Heritage Inventory, three sites are included in the Little River watershed, two sites on the West Fork of the Little River and one on the South Prong.

In Randolph County, the land bordering the Little River is predominately agricultural. However, in Montgomery County, a large portion of the Little River watershed occurs in forested land and the largest urban area is Troy. Because of the different land uses, the water quality of the Little River varies. According to 1989 macroinvertebrate data from the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basinwide Water Quality Management Plan (NC DEHNR, 1997), water quality of the Little River drainage varies from good-fair in the upper reaches, to excellent in the tributaries in the middle section, to good in the lower portion. It appears that non-point source pollution, such as runoff, affects the upper sections of the Little River. The macroinvertebrate data indicates excellent water quality in the West Fork of the Little River, which flows through the wooded landscape of southern Randolph County. In contrast, however, the fish community assessment for the West Fork of the Little River was rated as good. This river lacked the full level of diversity for the number of species of darters, sunfish,